[*Translation*]

Interest free advance to Central Government Employees who suffered loss of Property due to Earthquake.

4564. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide interest free advance, recoverable in easy instalments, to those Central Government employees who have suffered loss of property in recent earthquake in Garhwal region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). there is no provision under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure to provide interest free advance to Central Government employees affected by natural calamities. However, under the provisions of General Financial Rules, a natural calamity interest free advance not exceeding Rs. 1000/- and recoverable in not more than 25 monthly instalments can be sanctioned by Head of Office on receipt of application from non-gazetted staff under their administrative control whose property movable or immovable, has been substantially affected or damaged in the area declared by the State Government concerned to be affected by natural calamity.

[*English*]

Production of Wool

4565. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of wool has been affected in Rajasthan and Gujarat due to export of sheep-meat and shrinking of pastures;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome this situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the government during 1991-92 for increasing the production of wool in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Production of wool in Rajasthan and Gujarat has not been affected due to export of sheep meat. Shrinking of pastures has affected to some extent the total wool production in Rajasthan.

(b) The State Government of Rajasthan is taking positive steps to develop pasture lands in Rajasthan.

(c) In order to enhance the production of wool in the country, the following programmes are under implementation in different States during 1991-92.

i) providing assistance for strengthening of Large Sheep Breeding Farms in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

ii) providing assistance for organising/strengthening of Wool Boards/Corporations/Federations in the States of Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, U.P., Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

iii) It is proposed to distribute 800 improved rams to different